

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13014 300938Z

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SUBJ: GOJ HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY TO SEND DOCTORS TO U S TO
ASSIST ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS' ENTRY INTO JAPAN FOR MEDICAL
TREATMENT

1. DR FINCH OF RERF CALLED SCICOUNS 8/27 TO REPORT THAT
DISQUIETING ARTICLE HAD APPEARED IN CHUGOKU SHIMBUN (NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHED IN HIROSHIMA AREA) ON 8/27. EMBASSY OBTAINED COPY
OF PAPER: FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY TRANSLATION:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: WELFARE MINISTRY DECIDES UPON RELIEF FOR
A-BOMB VICTIMS IN U.S. ON AUGUST 26, THE WELFARE MINISTRY
DECIDED UPON THE POLICY OF SENDING A-BOMB DISEASE DOCTORS TO
THE U.S. AND EASING THE CONDITIONS FOR ISSUING THE A-BOMB
VICTIM CERTIFICATE, AS RELIEF MEASURES FOR THE A-BOMB
VICTIMS IN THE UNITED STATES. ON THE SAME DAY, WELFARE
MINISTER TANAKA INVITED MS. SUEISHI, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF A-BOMB VICTIMS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO WAS
VISITING JAPAN, TO THE WELFARE MINISTRY AND CONVEYED THE POLICY
DECISION DIRECTLY TO SUEISHI.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13014 300938Z

3. BECAUSE OF THE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. MEDICAL DOCTORS ACT, ACCORDING TO THE WELFARE MINISTRY, THE DISPATCH OF JAPANESE DOCTORS WILL BE PART OF RERF'S SURVEY AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND TAKE THE FORM OF COOPERATION WITH LOCAL DOCTORS. KEEPING CONTACT WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE WELFARE MINISTRY WILL BOIL DOWN THE PLANS TO FIX THE DATE F DISPATCH AND OTHER MATTERS. AT PARESENT THE WELFARE MINISTRY PLANS TO SEND TWO DOCTORS OR SO, INCLUDING PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, FOR A MONTH AT LEAST. SABURI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY'S PUBLIC HEALTH BUREAU, SAYS, "WE HOPE THAT THE DOCTORS TO BE SENT WILL BE FROM THE ATOMIC BOMB HOSPITAL AND OTHERS. IF PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETED ON THE RECEIVING SIDE, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SEND THE DOCTORS WITHIN THE YEAR."

4. ABOUT THE CONDITIONS FOR ISSUING THE A-BOMB VICTIM CERTIFICATE, THE MINISTRY'S POLICY IS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE CERTIFICATE TO THE VICTIMS AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVE IN JAPAN, PROVIDED THEIR LETTERS OF APPLICAPON ARE RECEIVED BEFOREHAND. THE MINISTRY WANTS TO ELIMINATE SUCH TROUBLE AS LOOKING FOR WITNESSES, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

5. AT HIS MEETING WITH SUEISHI, THE WELFARE MINISTER SHOWED HIS UNDERSTANDING FOR THE A-BOMB VICTIMS IN THE UNITED STATES, SAYING THAT HE HAD WANTED TO DO HIS UTMOST FOR THEM. END QUOTE.

6. FYI: IN PARA 3 ABOVE, REFERENCE IN FIRST SENTENCE TO "U.S. DOCTORS ACT" MEANS THAT JAPANESE DOCTORS WOULD BE UNABLE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN U.S. AND WOULD THEREFORE ENLIST COOPERATION OF AMERICAN DOCTORS, WHO WOULD PERFORM EXAMINATIONS ASSISTED BY JAPANESE DOCTORS. END FYI.

7. DR. FINCH HAS TALKED TO RERF DDIRECTOR R. TAKABE ABOUT ARTICLE, WHO IN TURN IS TO DETERMINE FROM DR. YAMASHITA IF LATTER WAS INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF MHW PLANS. IN INTERIM, SCICOUNS HAS DETERMINED FROM CONVERSATION WITH SABURI OF NHW THAT SUBSTANCE OF ARTICLE IS CORRECT: AND THAT MHW WILL BE ASKING FOREIGN OFFICE TO APPROACH EMBASSY WITH OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE.

8. DR. FINCH ADVISES THAT HE WAS UNAWARE THAT MHW HAD ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 13014 300938Z

INTENTION F ACCEDING TO PLEAS OF MS. SUEISHI, WHO HAS BEEN ON PERSISTENT CAMPAIGN IN JAPAN TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR U.S. RESIDENTS WHO CLAIM TO BE A-BOMB VICTIMS, ASKING WAIVER OF NEED TO OBTAIN WITNESSES TO THEIR PRESENCE IN HIROSHIMA OR NAGASAKI AT TIME OF EXPLOSIONS AS REQUIRED FOR RESIDENTS OF JAPAN. FINCH NOTES THAT RERF PHYSICIANS APPARENTLY ARE BEING COMMITTED TO GO TO U.S. TO PARTICIPATE IN MEDICAL EXAMS WITHOUT MHW CONSULTATION WITH RERF MANAGEMENT.

9. SUBSEQUENT TO OBTAINING ABOVE INFO, BRIEF ARTICLE
APPEARED IN INSIDE PAGES OF NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (JAPAN
ECONOMIC DAILY NEWSPAPER) ENTITLED "GOOD NEWS FOR U.S. A-BOMB
VICTIMS". IT SUBSTANTIATED EARLIER INFO AND SAID IN
ADDITION THAT MHW PLANS TO REQUEST BUDGET OF ABOUT \$15-20
THOUSAND TO SEND TWO DOCTORS TO U.S. FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH: VISITS
TO L.A. AND S.F. MENTIONED EXPLICITLY.
SHOESMITH

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